

Hard man, soft man The real Stephen Graham



The Daily Telegraph

PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR

'Make a deal or we're out'

Shouting match at White House as Trump tells Zelensky: Come back when you're ready for peace

By Memphis Barker
in Washington DC

A TELEVIEWED shouting match between Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office saw peace talks between the two leaders abruptly halted.

In a hostile press conference, the US president told Mr Zelensky to sign a ceasefire or "we're out" as their summit descended into a furious dressing-down of the Ukrainian president. After the meeting was cut short and a press conference cancelled, Mr Trump ordered Mr Zelensky to leave and wrote online: "Come back when you're ready for peace".

The extraordinary clash left the prospects of a peace deal hanging by a thread and raised major questions about the future of European security.

The White House summit, which came a day after Sir Keir Starmer held warm talks with Mr Trump, was meant to host the signing of a mineral wealth deal between the US and Ukraine. But the mood in the room soured when Mr Zelensky called for US security guarantees beyond what was laid out in the draft deal. Mr Zelensky said that Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, had repeatedly broken ceasefire agreements signed in 2014 and warned the US leaders that their troops would be at risk without a strong security guarantee.

But Mr Trump took umbrage at the live negotiating style. At the height of the row between the leaders Mr Trump told his counterpart: "You don't have the cards right now."

He added: "You're gambling with World War Three, and what you're doing is very disrespectful to the country that's backed you [the most]."

JD Vance, the US vice-president, was also incensed by Mr Zelensky's efforts to control the narrative and his calls on the US for more assistance. He said it was "disrespectful for you to come to the Oval Office and try to litigate this in front of the American media".

While Emmanuel Macron and Sir Keir had approached Mr Trump with cheerful deference in the same room earlier this week, Mr Zelensky took a harder line. "You have a nice ocean and



Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky during their heated exchange at the White House which was televised live

don't feel [Russia's threat] now, but you will feel it in the future," he warned Mr Vance. Earlier he had said "You will fight your American soldiers, it doesn't matter you have an ocean or not, your soldiers will die."

Mr Trump lost his temper. "Don't tell us what we're going to feel," he said. "We're going to feel very good."

Addressing the rolling TV cameras, the president added: "I think it's good for the American people to see what's going on. I think it's very important."

At the end of the conference, he dismissed a question from a Ukrainian journalist once more raising the need for security guarantees, saying Putin "respects me". "I think we've seen

enough," Mr Trump said, before calling the event to a close and ushering the press out of the room. "This is going to be great television," he added. "I will say that."

After the meeting, Mr Trump said Mr Zelensky should come back to Washington when he was ready for peace.

"Much was learned that could never be understood without conversation under such fire and pressure," he wrote on Truth Social.

"It's amazing what comes out through emotion, and I have determined that President Zelensky is not ready for Peace if America is involved, because he feels our involvement gives him a big advantage in negotiations. I

don't want advantage, I want PEACE."

A second press conference was cancelled as the Ukrainian president quickly left the White House at the request of Mr Trump, according to a White House official. The minerals deal went unsigned amid the bitter recriminations. After Mr Zelensky had left the White House, a senior US official told Reuters that the cancelled press conference could still be held, if the Ukrainian president changed his tone.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's national security council, welcomed the treatment of Mr Zelensky. "The insolent pig finally got a proper slap down in the Oval Office," he wrote on X. A government source told

INSIDE

Reports & analysis
Pages 4-5

Editorial
Comment
Page 15

David Blair
Page 16

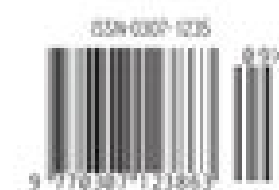
The Telegraph that the Oval Office row was "unhelpful" but that it was too early to say what the implications might be in terms of future US support. Donald Tusk, the Polish prime minister, said: "Dear Ukrainian friends, you are not alone."

Chuck Schumer, the Democrat minority leader in the senate, accused Mr Trump and Mr Vance of handing Putin a propaganda victory. "Trump and Vance are doing Putin's dirty work," he wrote on X.

Reini Radenoch, the Conservative party leader, said: "Respectable diplomacy is essential for peace. We need to remember that the villain is the war criminal president Putin."

INSIDE

News Focus	18
Obituaries	27
Business	29
Weather	32



NEWS

Gen Z lawyers need extra 'hand-holding'

Gen Z lawyers need extra "hand-holding" because of lockdown, according to a law firm that pays its graduates £180,000. Gibson Dunn said junior employees resisted demands for long hours and refuse to accept criticism. The firm is seeking to hire a so-called professional support lawyer who can help young employees with targeted training. A job advert for the role suggested that change in attitudes at work, saying that "more hand-holding is needed".
Page 3

NEWS

Police probe after BBC 'cash for Hamas' claim

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that counter-terror officers are looking into whether the law was broken in the making of the BBC's Gaza documentary. At the same time, the BBC is to investigate claims that a Hamas official's daughter who appeared to celebrate the Oct 7 attacks was paid during the making of the film. Safa al-Yazouri posted on Facebook on the day of the atrocity saying, "Amen O Lord", along with an emoji of hands clasped in thanks and a green heart.
Page 6

MATT

I don't trust banking apps. What if they stop working when Rachel Reeves urgently needs to access my cash?

NEWS

Bargain Hunt star cleared of beating wife

Charles Hanson, the auctioneer on the TV show *Bargain Hunt*, has been cleared of assaulting his wife. A jury at Derby Crown Court found him not guilty of coercive control and assault allegations against his wife Rebecca following a three-week trial. The court heard claims that Hanson put his wife in a headlock while she was pregnant with a baby she later lost. He said afterwards: "I'm delighted that after a year and a half the truth has finally come out."
Page 7

SPORT

England boos blew my mind, says Genge

England prop Ellis Genge has told The Telegraph that the negative reaction that greeted England's 16-15 victory against Scotland last weekend "blew his mind". During the match, sections of the crowd booed England's box-kicking tactics while Steve Borthwick's team received little praise for ending their losing run against the Scots. Genge said: "I love the fans but ... I just can't believe the spiel that I'm reading from people saying how off it we are."
Sport: Page 7

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